

BETHESDA EPISCOPAL CHURCH

10.00am A Service of Lessons and Music for Easter

7 April 2024

Music before the service ‘Spagnoletta’ Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)
Elizabeth Huntley, harp

All stand at the entrance of the choir and clergy.

The Entrance Hymn #180

From The Hymnal 1982

The People remain standing for the Bidding Prayer.

The Bidding

Beloved in Christ, we are gathered here in this most holy season to celebrate the glorious Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to hear again from the Scriptures how he overcame death, and rose victorious from the grave. But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace upon the earth Our Lord came to save; for love and unity within the Church he came to build; and for goodwill among all people.

And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us remember in his name, the poor and the unemployed; the hungry, the lonely and the unloved; the exploited and the oppressed, and all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; that they may find fresh strength in the Easter gospel.

Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, entrusting them to God's infinite love and mercy.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words that Christ himself has taught us, saying:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

All sit.

Choir

Surrexit Christus

Samuel Scheidt (1587-1654)

*Surrexit Christus hodie
Mortem qui passus pridie
Mulieres ad tumulum
Dona ferunt aromatum,*

*Christ is risen today.
He endured death yesterday.
Women to the tomb
Bring gifts of spices.*

*Quaerentes Iesum dominum
Album cernentes angelum
Discipulis hoc dicite,
Quod surrexit rex gloriae.*

*Searching for the Lord Jesus
They see a white-robed angel.
To the disciples they declare
That the king of glory is risen.*

*Petro dehinc et ceteris
Apparuit apostolis.
Gloria tibi, Domine,
Qui surrexisti e morte.*

*Peter next and to the others
He appears to the apostles.
Glory to you, Lord,
Who is risen from the dead.*

Remain seated for the readings.

The First Lesson

John 20:11-18

Christ appears to Mary Magdalene and she supposes him to be the gardener.

Mary Magdalene stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Thanks be to God.

Harp

Prelude on 'Rhosymedre'

arr. Barnwell/Vaughan Williams

The Second Lesson

Luke 24:13-16, 28-35

Jesus appears to two of his disciples as they journey to Emmaus.

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts

burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Thanks be to God.

Choir 'Easter Carol'

Traditional German

*Now glad of heart be everyone; the battle o'er, the victory won.
Let songs of thankfulness be sung: Alleluia.*

*The women at the empty tomb; the apostles in the shuttered room;
Christ's peace for all; away dark gloom. Alleluia.*

*Blest are all they who have not seen, and yet whose faith has constant been.
Inherit heaven's eternity. Alleluia*

The Third Lesson

John 20:19; Luke 24:37-40; John 20:20-23

Christ appears to his disciples in hiding.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Thanks be to God.

Harp 'Water Spirit'

Kim Robertson

The Fourth Lesson

John 20:24-29

Thomas is given convincing proof of the Lord's Resurrection.

Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Thanks be to God.

Choir Blessed Are They Who Have Not Seen George A. MacFarren (1813-1887)

Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed. (John 20: 29)

The Fifth Lesson Matthew 28:16-20; John 20:30, 31

Christ gives the disciples his final charge.

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Thanks be to God.

Harp Gabriel's Oboe Ennio Morricone (1928-2020)

All stand.

The Collect for Easter

<i>Officiant</i>	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	And with thy spirit.
<i>Officiant</i>	Let us pray.

O God, who for our redemption didst give thine only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection hast delivered us from the power of our enemy: Grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; through the same thy Son Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Greetings

At The Offertory Hymn #204 From The Hymnal 1982

All remain standing.

The Great Thanksgiving

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	And with thy spirit.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Lift up your hearts.
<i>People</i>	We lift them up unto the Lord.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.
<i>People</i>	It is meet and right so to do.

Then, facing the High Altar, the Celebrant sings the Preface for Easter.

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God. But chiefly we are bound to praise thee for the glorious resurrection of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and hath taken away the sin of the world; who by his death hath destroyed death, and by his rising to life again hath won for us everlasting life. Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

Sanctus and Benedictus Qui Venit *Sung by all* *Healey Willan (1880-1968)*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - - - ly, Lord God of Hosts:
 Hea-ven and earth are full of thy glo - ry. Glo - ry be to
 thee, O Lord Most High. Bless - ed is he that com - eth in the
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

All kneel.

The Eucharistic Prayer

Prayer Book p. 340

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ. And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **Amen**

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say, **Our Father, ...**

The Fraction

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Agnus Dei from Missa Sancti Magni *Sydney Nicholson (1875-1947)*

Communion is distributed at the chancel step.

At The Communion

Choir: This Joyful Eastertide *William H. Harris (1883-1973)*

*This joyful Eastertide, away with sin and sorrow.
My Love, the Crucified, hath sprung to life this morrow.*

*Refrain:
Had Christ, that once was slain, ne'er burst his three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain: but now hath Christ arisen.
My flesh in hope shall rest, and for a season slumber:
Till trump from east to west shall wake the dead in number. Refrain*

*Death's flood hath lost his chill, since Jesus crossed the river:
Lover of souls, from ill my passing soul deliver. Refrain*

Harp: 'Cathedral Meditation' *Edwin Lemare*

After Communion, all kneel.

Prayer after Communion

O God, whose blessed Son did manifest himself to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open, we pray thee, the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Blessing and Dismissal

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Celebrant Alleluia. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia.**

The Closing Hymn #188

From The Hymnal 1982

Harp The Water is Wide/Shall We Gather at the River ***Traditional***

Notices

A special thank you to today's 10am readers, our choir; and Elizabeth Huntley for their contribution to our service of Easter lessons and music.

Please join us for a cup of coffee after the 10am service. Thanks to Garrie Long for hosting! If you are able to host one week, please sign up using the sheet in the Narthex.

Please be advised that the **office will be closed** until 16 April.

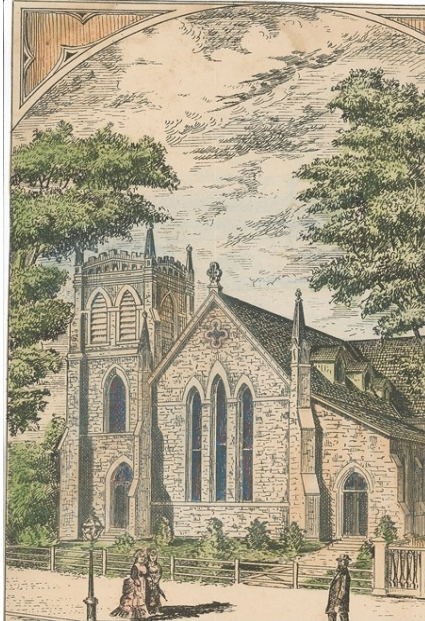
The **April Special Envelope** supports the **Thomas T. Parke Music Fund**. Fr Parke was Rector of Bethesda from 1968 to 2012. In recognition of his commitment to the liturgical and musical life of the parish, a fund was established in his name which would provide additional financial support to our choral program throughout the year. Thank you for your generosity to the ministry of music at Bethesda.

Church Pews At our Annual Meeting on 28 January, parishioners were informed of the Vestry's decision to remove three rows of pews (6 total) at the back of the church. This will open up the area around the Baptismal Font, and create additional space for parish events, including fellowship after Sunday worship, midweek study groups and meetings. Due to the number of pews already stored (languishing!) in the undercroft, the Vestry has also decided to make these pews available to interested parishioners. Please read the information sheet available at the back of the church, or speak to a warden.

From Franklin Community Center to Bethesda Congregation:

What a wonderful surprise! The gift of \$1204 from your recent monthly envelope directly fuels our mission, and enables us to provide low-income housing, wholesome meals and essential assistance of clothing and household items to those in need. You also make a difference in the lives of our Project Lift students by helping to create an environment where they can enjoy engaging activities, games and art that enhance their social and emotional skills. We cannot thank you enough for standing by our side! We are so grateful.

“We are Family” On Sunday 14th April, there will be a special gathering to celebrate a new season of life in the Diocese of Albany. Bishop Jeremiah will join parishes of the Upper Hudson Deanery, which includes Bethesda Church, for a worship service at 5pm that will include music, readings from Scripture, and the sharing of uplifting testimonies. All are welcome. The event will take place at Christ Church, Ballston Spa, and the service is followed by dinner to which you are warmly invited. As a courtesy to Fr Derik Roy and the people at Christ Church, please *RSVP* to office@stgeorgescp.org by Wednesday, 10th April.



Fr Charles Wallace, Priest-in-Charge

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